

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, immediately beneath the Title, please insert the following:

-- Background of the Invention --

On page 1, lines 8 and 9, please delete, “uses of guanidinium hydrogen sulfite and kits containing it.”

and insert

-- for performing the methods of the invention. --

On page 1, line 10, please delete “Background of the Invention”

and insert,

-- Description of the Related Art --

On page 4, line 21, please insert,

-- Description of the Figures

Figure. 1 shows the reaction of cytosine with bisulfite. The steps of the bisulfite method

Figures 2 to 4 show HPLC profiles of the reaction mixtures after incubation for certain time periods and in the presence of different disseminating reagents as indicated in section 2.1.2 et seq.

Fig. 2a) 1 M sodium hydrogensulfite, 30 min;

Fig. 2b) 1 M guanidinium hydrogensulfite, 30 min;

Fig. 3a) 2 M sodium hydrogensulfite, 30 min;

Fig. 3b) 2M guanidinium hydrogensulfite, 30 min;

Fig. 4a) 2 M sodium hydrogensulfite, 60 min; and

Fig. 4b) 2 M guanidinium hydrogensulfite, 60 min.

On page 12, please delete lines 5 through 14

On page 12, line 16, please insert,

-- Example 1 --

On page 13, line 1, please insert,

-- Example 2 --

On page 14, line 20, please insert,

-- Example 3 --

On page 17, line 7, please insert,

-- Example 4 --

On page 20, line 1, please insert,

-- Example 5 --

On page 22, line 6, please insert,

-- Example 6 --

On page 25, line 8, please insert,

-- Example 7 --

On page 28, line 1, please insert,

-- Example 8 --

On page 30, line 4, please insert,

-- Example 9 --

Please delete pages 32 through 33

On page 31, line 3, please insert,

-- While the foregoing invention has been described in some detail for purposes of clarity and understanding, it will be clear to one skilled in the art from a reading of this disclosure that various changes in form and detail can be made without departing from the true scope of the invention. For example, all the techniques and apparatus described above can be used in various combinations. All publications, patents, patent applications, and/or other documents cited in this application are incorporated by reference in their entirety for all purposes to the

same extent as if each individual publication, patent, patent application, and/or other document were individually indicated to be incorporated by reference for all purposes.--

IN THE ABSTRACT

On the next page following the Claims, please replace the current Abstract with the following:

--ABSTRACT

The invention is related to the detection of a methylated cytosine in a nucleic acid wherein guanidinium hydrogen sulfite is used for the preparation of a solution containing guanidinium ions and sulfite ions and subsequent modification of the nucleic acid. Thereby, a non-methylated cytosine is converted to uracil. The invention further discloses kits for performing the methods of the invention. --